## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving a search request containing search criteria from a first user, the search criteria including at least one search category;

determining filter search specification associated with the at least one search category, the filter search specification being used to specify a particular type of records to be selected for the search request; and

performing a search based upon the filter search specification and the search criteria to identify records that match filter search specification and the search criteria.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein performing the search includes:

constructing a search query based on the search criteria and the filer search specification; and

executing the search query to select records that match the search criteria and the filer search specification.

3. The method of claim 2 further including:

generating search results based on the records selected; and

displaying the search results to the first user.

4. The method of claim 1 further including:

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2      determining the first user's organizational

3  identifier, the first user's organizational identifier

4  being used to specify a corresponding organization to

5  which the first user belongs.

1  5.    The method of claim 4 wherein performing the search

2  includes:

3      constructing a search query based on the first user's

4  organizational identifier, the filter search

5  specification, and the search criteria; and

6      executing the search query to select records that

7  match the first user's organizational identifier, the

8  filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1  6.    The method of claim 1 further including:

2      determining a list of categories to which the first

3  user is authorized to access.

1  7.    The method of claim 6 wherein performing the search

2  includes:

3      constructing a search query based on the list of

4  categories to which the first user is authorized to

5  access, the filter search specification, and the search

6  criteria; and

7      executing the search query to select records that

8  match the list of categories, the filter search

9  specification, and the search criteria.

1  8    A system comprising:

2      logic to receive a search request containing search

3    criteria from a first user, the search criteria including

4    at least one search category;

5      logic to determine filter search specification

6    associated with the at least one search category, the

7    filter search specification being used to specify a

8    particular type of records to be selected for the search

9    request; and

10      logic to perform a search based upon the filter

11    search specification and the search criteria to identify

12    records that match filter search specification and the

13    search criteria.

1    9.   The system of claim 8 wherein logic to perform the

2    search includes:

3      logic to construct a search query based on the search

4    criteria and the filer search specification; and

5      logic to execute the search query to select records

6    that match the search criteria and the filer search

7    specification.

1    10.   The system of claim 8 further including:

2      logic to determine the first user's organizational

3    identifier, the first user's organizational identifier

4    being used to specify a corresponding organization to

5    which the first user belongs.

1    11.   The system of claim 10 wherein the logic to perform

2    the search includes:

3    logic to construct a search query based on the first

4    user's organizational identifier, the filter search

5    specification, and the search criteria; and

6    logic to execute the search query to select records

7    that match the first user's organizational identifier, the

8    filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1    12.   The system of claim 8 further including:

2    logic to determine a list of categories to which the

3    first user is authorized to access.

1    13.   The system of claim 12 wherein logic to perform the

2    search includes:

3    logic to construct a search query based on the list

4    of categories to which the first user is authorized to

5    access, the filter search specification, and the search

6    criteria; and

7    logic to execute the search query to select records

8    that match the list of categories, the filter search

9    specification, and the search criteria.

1    14.   A machine-readable medium comprising instructions

2    which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

3    perform operations including:

4    receiving a search request containing search criteria

5    from a first user, the search criteria including at least

6    one search category;

7    determining filter search specification associated

8    with the at least one search category, the filter search

9  specification being used to specify a particular type of

10  records to be selected for the search request; and

11      performing a search based upon the filter search

12  specification and the search criteria to identify records

13  that match filter search specification and the search

14  criteria.

1  15.  The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein

2  performing the search includes:

3      constructing a search query based on the search

4  criteria and the filer search specification; and

5      executing the search query to select records that

6  match the search criteria and the filer search

7  specification.

1  16.  The machine-readable medium of claim 14 further

2  including:

3      determining the first user's organizational

4  identifier, the first user's organizational identifier

5  being used to specify a corresponding organization to

6  which the first user belongs.

1  17.  The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein

2  performing the search includes:

3      constructing a search query based on the first user's

4  organizational identifier, the filter search

5  specification, and the search criteria; and

6      executing the search query to select records that

7  match the first user's organizational identifier, the

8  filter search specification, and the search criteria.

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1   18.   The machine-readable medium of claim 14 further

2   including:

3        determining a list of categories to which the first

4   user is authorized to access.

1   19.   The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein

2   performing the search includes:

3        constructing a search query based on the list of

4   categories to which the first user is authorized to

5   access, the filter search specification, and the search

6   criteria; and

7        executing the search query to select records that

8   match the list of categories, the filter search

9   specification, and the search criteria.

1   20.   A method comprising:

2        receiving a search request containing search criteria

3   from a first user, the search criteria including at least

4   one search category;

5        determining filter search specification associated

6   with the at least one search category;

7        determining the first user's organizational

8   identifier, the first user's organizational identifier

9   being used to specify a corresponding organization to

10  which the first user belongs; and

11       performing a search based upon the first user's

12  organizational identifier, the filter search

13  specification, and the search criteria to identify records

14 that match the first user's organizational identifier, the

15 filter search specification and the search criteria.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein performing the search

2 includes:

3     constructing a search query based on the first user's

4 organizational identifier, the filter search

5 specification, and the search criteria; and

6     executing the search query to select records that

7 match the first user's organizational identifier, the

8 filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1 22. A method comprising:

2     receiving a search request containing search criteria

3 from a first user, the search criteria including at least

4 one search category;

5     determining filter search specification associated

6 with the at least one search category;

7     determining a list of categories to which the first

8 user is authorized to access; and

9     performing a search based upon the list of categories

10 the first user is authorized to access, the filter search

11 specification, and the search criteria to identify records

12 that match the list of categories, the filter search

13 specification and the search criteria.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein performing the search

2 includes:

3     constructing a search query based on the list of

4 categories to which the first user is authorized to

5   access, the filter search specification, and the search

6   criteria; and

7       executing the search query to select records that

8   match the list of categories, the filter search

9   specification, and the search criteria.

1   24.  A machine-readable medium comprising instructions

2   which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

3   perform operations including:

4       receiving a search request containing search criteria

5   from a first user, the search criteria including at least

6   one search category;

7       determining filter search specification associated

8   with the at least one search category;

9       determining the first user's organizational

10  identifier, the first user's organizational identifier

11  being used to specify a corresponding organization to

12  which the first user belongs; and

13      performing a search based upon the first user's

14  organizational identifier, the filter search

15  specification, and the search criteria to identify records

16  that match the first user's organizational identifier, the

17  filter search specification and the search criteria.

1   25.  The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein

2   performing the search includes:

3       constructing a search query based on the first user's

4   organizational identifier, the filter search

5   specification, and the search criteria; and

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6   executing the search query to select records that

7   match the first user's organizational identifier, the

8   filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1   26.   A machine-readable medium comprising instructions

2   which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

3   perform operations including:

4       receiving a search request containing search criteria

5   from a first user, the search criteria including at least

6   one search category;

7       determining filter search specification associated

8   with the at least one search category;

9       determining a list of categories to which the first

10  user is authorized to access; and

11      performing a search based upon the list of categories

12  the first user is authorized to access, the filter search

13  specification, and the search criteria to identify records

14  that match the list of categories, the filter search

15  specification and the search criteria.

1   27.   The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein

2   performing the search includes:

3       constructing a search query based on the list of

4   categories to which the first user is authorized to

5   access, the filter search specification, and the search

6   criteria; and

7       executing the search query to select records that

8   match the list of categories, the filter search

9   specification, and the search criteria.